



HEFCW-funded QAA Cymru Collaborative Enhancement Projects 2023-24

Call for Expressions of Interest

Would you like to lead a Collaborative Enhancement Project with colleagues from other QAA Member higher education providers in Wales?

What are the working groups?

1 These working groups between QAA Member higher education providers in Wales are aimed at promoting collaboration and sector development. These are projects where groups of providers agree to work collectively on matters of mutual interest which have the potential to add value to the whole sector once complete. These project groups will be asked to report on progress to QAA Cymru and regularly share learning from their activity. These project groups will be supported by QAA Cymru, through HEFCW grant funding, and some staff facilitator support.

2 You are invited to express interest in leading a Collaborative Enhancement Project. If you have an idea for a project but have not identified any collaborative partners, we encourage you to still submit an expression of interest. Following the closing date, QAA will identify project proposals with similar aims and can work with providers to form a Collaborative Enhancement Project.

3 This call is for **one project only**, that is to be funded through the HEFCW Grant Letter for QAA-facilitated sector activities. There is no specific topic area, therefore QAA welcomes proposals in any topic area, while being mindful of the criteria in paragraph 10.

What projects has QAA supported previously?

4 As an organisation, QAA has a long history of supporting sector-wide collaborative enhancement activity.

5 Specifically in Wales, QAA Cymru launched a call for the first Collaborative Enhancement Projects for Wales in March 2021 as well as supporting projects through HEFCW grant funding in 2022-23. Some of these projects include:

- [Student engagement in learning](#)
Lead: Bangor University (collaborative partners: Grŵp Llandrillo Menai)
- Welsh medium employer initiative
Lead: University of South Wales (collaborative partners: Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, Cardiff and Vale College, Coleg Gwent, Coleg y Cymoedd, The College Merthyr Tydfil).

- Embedding COVID-19 lessons learnt to enhance communities of learning
Lead: University of South Wales (collaborative partners: Cardiff and Vale College, Coleg Gwent, NPTC)
- [Development of resources for PGR students to assist preparation for their viva](#)
Lead: University of South Wales (collaborative partners: University Alliance, University of Huddersfield, Coventry University); this project is funded through the Welsh collaborative enhancement funding but came through a call from the UK-wide membership call for projects
- [The Welsh Collective: Digital Learning and Teaching Enhancement](#)
Lead: University of Wales Trinity Saint David on behalf of the Universities Wales Learning and Teaching Network (collaborative partners: this project includes all universities in Wales)
- [Implementation of a Micro-credential Planning Framework](#)
Lead: Cardiff Metropolitan University (collaborative partners: Gower College Swansea, Wrexham University)

6 QAA supports Collaborative Enhancement Projects led by members in England via QAA's UK-wide membership. The completed and upcoming projects can be found on the [QAA website](#).

7 QAA also supported collaborative clusters as part of the QAA Scotland Enhancement Themes. A range of outcomes and outputs from all collaborative clusters are available on the [Enhancement Themes website](#), including projects relating to the current Enhancement Theme: [Resilient Learning Communities](#).

How are the topics identified and chosen?

8 For 2023-24, QAA Cymru has received funding from HEFCW to support one project, which has no specified topic area.

9 If we receive more proposals than we can support at the current time, we have a set of selection criteria which the expressions of interest will be considered against (see paragraph 10).

What is the selection process and criteria?

10 The expressions of interest will be reviewed by QAA Cymru in terms of:

- number of institutions (and/or students' unions) actively engaged in the project (in general, this would be at least three to four)
- potential for the sector as a whole to benefit from the work once completed
- impact on/benefit to the providers involved in the working group and their students
- extent of student engagement in the activity
- plans for disseminating outcomes across the sector
- value for money
- ability to complete project by 31 July 2024
- consideration for the positive impact the project will have on Welsh medium/ bilingual provision and study opportunities.

What are the key dates?

11 Key dates relating to this call for expressions of interest are:

- expressions of interest should be returned to h.thomas@gaa.ac.uk and copied to ARCAdmin@gaa.ac.uk by 24 January 2024 (we welcome responses in English and Welsh)
- successful project proposals will be required to commence and commit expenditure in 2023-24.

What is the level of funding support?

12 The money allocated to successful expressions of interest will depend on the nature of the activity and anticipated outcomes; expenditure per project will **not exceed £5,000**. Expressions of interest should include details of how much funding and other resource you are seeking and an indication of how the money will be used.

13 The funding will support your work and the proposed outputs, which could include:

- development of practical resources to be published for the wider sector
- production of written material or multimedia resource for use by students and staff (for example, case studies)
- support for the evaluation of an existing initiative
- assistance with developing a good practice or quick reference guide for students and staff
- providing a small amount of funding to enable an institutional activity to be extended for the benefit of additional providers.

This is not an exhaustive list and other proposed outputs will be considered.

What are we asking providers to do?

14 If you are interested in leading a project, please complete the Expression of Interest Application Form.

15 Please indicate the kind of support you are seeking from QAA Cymru to facilitate your proposed work. As an indicative list, examples of support might include:

- directing to readily available material at QAA relating to the topic
- support for the evaluation of an initiative
- promotion of the project through QAA communication channels
- providing logistical support to allow a meeting to take place online or in person.

Interested and want to be involved?

16 If you would like to discuss a proposal or thoughts for a project, we would like to hear from you. You can contact us at h.thomas@qaa.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest and support in this HEFCW-funded opportunity in collaboration with QAA Cymru - we look forward to hearing from you!

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